

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Presently amended) A method for ~~decreasing the degree of caking of~~ treating a proteinaceous animal feedstuff ~~by--product of the production of ethanol from corn during storage or transport,~~ comprising the steps of:

- (a) producing ethanol from corn using a milling process selected from the group consisting of wet milling and dry milling;
- (b) generating during the process a proteinaceous by-product that is susceptible to caking during storage and transport;
- (c) adding a reducing agent to the proteinaceous by-product in an amount between 100 ppm and up to about 10,000 ppm; and
- (~~b~~d) adding a chaotroph to the proteinaceous by-product in an amount between 100 ppm and up to about 40,000 ppm resulting in a decreased degree of caking of the by-product during transportation and storage.

2. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium bisulfite, disodium sulfite, sodium sulfide, dithiothreitol, beta-mercaptoethanol, and sulfur dioxide.

3. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the chaotroph is selected from the group consisting of ammonia, urea, and guanidine hydrochloride.

4. (Presently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding an enzyme to the proteinaceous by-product in an amount up to about 1000 ppm.

5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the enzyme replaces all or a part of the reducing agent.

6. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of thioredoxin *h* (TRX *h*), thioredoxin reductase, protein disulfide reductase, keratinase, and papain.

7. (Presently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding a material which assists in maintaining a reducing condition in the proteinaceous by-product in an amount up to about 10,000 ppm.
8. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 7, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of TBHQ, BHA, BHT, propyl gallate, carnosic acid, and plant extracts.
9. (Presently amended) A method as defined in claim 7, wherein the proteinaceous by-product is contained in a substantially airtight container and wherein the step of adding a material which assists in maintaining a reducing condition in the proteinaceous product comprises flushing the container with nitrogen, carbon dioxide or any other inert gas.
10. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding a material which assists in blocking of free sulfhydryl groups in an amount up to about 10,000 ppm.
11. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the material which assists in blocking of free sulfhydryl groups is selected from the group consisting of oxidized glutathione, ascorbic acid, sodium sulfite, and N-ethylmaleimide.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
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19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

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22. (Canceled)

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24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Presently amended) A method for ~~decreasing the degree of caking of~~treating dried distiller's grains from the production of ethanol from corn ~~during storage or transport~~, comprising the steps of:

- (a) producing ethanol from corn using a milling process selected from the group consisting of wet milling and dry milling;
- (b) generating during the process dried distiller's grains that are susceptible to caking during storage and transport;
- (c) adding to the dried distiller's grains between 100 ppm and about 5,000 ppm of a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of sodium bisulfite, disodium

sulfite, sodium sulfide, dithiothreitol, and beta-mercaptoethanol to the proteinaceous product;

- (bd) adding to the dried distiller's grains between 100 ppm and about 10,000 ppm of a chaotroph selected from the group consisting of ammonia, urea, and guanidine hydrochloride;
- (ee) adding to the dried distiller's grains between about 10 ppm and about 500 ppm of an enzyme selected from the group consisting of thioredoxin *h* (TRX *h*), thioredoxin reductase, protein disulfide reductase, keratinase, and papain;
- (df) adding to the dried distiller's grains between about 100 ppm and about 5,000 ppm of a material which assists in maintaining a reducing condition in the proteinaceous product selected from the group consisting of TBHQ, BHA, BHT, propyl gallate, carnosic acid, plant extracts, and any inert gas that will exclude oxygen; and
- (eg) adding to the dried distiller's grains between about 100 ppm and about 5,000 ppm of a material which assists in blocking of free sulfhydryl groups selected from the group consisting of oxidized glutathione, ascorbic acid, sodium sulfite, and N-ethylmaleimide resulting in a decreased degree of caking of the dried distiller's grains during transportation and storage.

29. (Presently amended) A ~~composition~~ method as defined in claim 28, wherein the inert gas is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen and carbon dioxide.